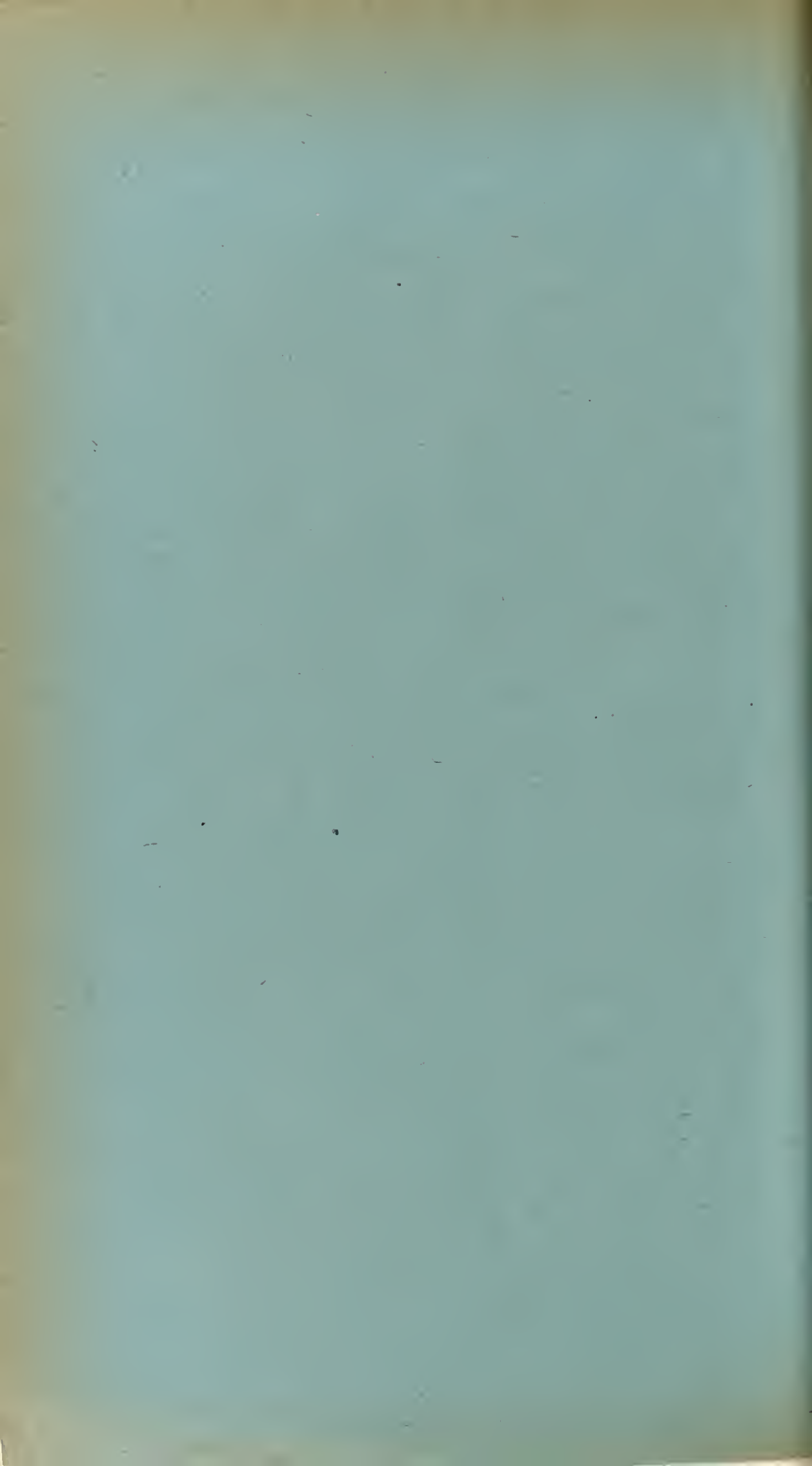


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THE RURAL DISTRICT
of
SAFFRON WALDEN
in the
Administrative County of Essex

THE
ANNUAL
REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Senior Sanitary Inspector
for the year
1950



PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1950. I am indebted to my predecessor, Dr Richardson, (retired 10th March, 1951), to the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Engineer and Surveyor, for the information contained herein, as my own appointment only dates from the 10th March, 1951.

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW,
Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1950

Area: 78,585 acres.

Population: (Registrar General's estimate): 17,350.

Number of inhabited houses (December, 1950) according to Rate Books:
5450.

Rateable value: £73,893. Product of a penny rate: £299.

VITAL STATISTICS

					Male	Female	Total
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	127	138	265
		Illegitimate	...	...	3	7	10
Still Births		...	...	...	2	5	7
Deaths		...	...	...	122	120	242

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 16.2

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 13.9

Deaths from Puerperal causes: None

Deaths of infants under one year: 3

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age: 1

Death Rate of infants under one year per 1,000 births: 10.9

Death Rate of infants under one year in England and Wales for the year
1950 was 29.8 per 1,000 related live births.

There were no deaths from the infectious diseases Measles and Whooping Cough, and no deaths of infants under two years of age from Diarrhoea.

There were 4 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two deaths from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis in the year.

Nine cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1950. (8 Pulmonary and 1 Non-pulmonary).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health:

S. R. Richardson, B.A., M.D., D.P.H. (retired 10/3/51).

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

A. Armes, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G. E. Hawthorn, M.S.I.A.

Technical Assistant:

R. Skoyles.

Secretary (Sanitary Inspectors Department):

Miss G. Walters.

Hospitals: Hospitals in the administrative County of Essex, with the exception of those in Saffron Walden, are in the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital area; the Saffron Walden Districts are included in the East Anglian Regional Hospital area.

There are twelve Hospital Management Committees in the East Anglian Board area. The Saffron Walden hospitals come under the Cambridge and Newmarket Hospital Management Committee.

Ambulance Facilities: A day and night ambulance service is provided by the County Council. Except in cases of emergency, ambulances are booked on the recommendation of a hospital, or of a doctor, home nurse, midwife or other competent person. For emergency cases an ambulance is called by dialling "O" or "O1" (according to area) and asking for an ambulance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water: Chemical and bacteriological examination of the public supplies showed that the water continued to be of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity. The difficulty of excessive iron in sections of the Southern Supply, which had apparently been overcome by the provision of a filtration plant four years ago, continues to recur. Further measures for overcoming this defect have been taken by the Surveyor.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux) who is responsible for the maintenance of main supplies has supplied the following report:

- "1. (a) The quality of the water has remained good with the exception of some dead-ends in the Southern Area where, although frequent flushings are carried out, complaints are received regarding rust in the water.

(b) The quantity of water available has been ample but a lack of pumping capacity has entailed considerable overtime.
- "2. In all the pipe supplies provided by the Council the water is chlorinated at the Pumping Stations.
- "3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action.
- "4. No contamination of the supply has been observed.
- "5. I regret that pending a survey of the district no accurate figures are available regarding the number of houses supplied either direct or by standpipes."

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

(in parts per million)

Test	Source						
	Hempstead	Newport	Henham	Wenden	Linton	Stansted	Rochford's
	Works	Works	Works	Works	Works	Works	Works
Appearance	Clear	Bright	Slightly Opalescent on keeping	Clear	Bright	Clear	Bright
Colour	Nil	Nil	Less than 10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity	Nil	Less than 3	Nil on keep- ing 4	Nil	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 3
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
p.H.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.0
Free CO ₂	31	31	30	28	15	29	37
Elect. Conductivity	550	600	540	540	520	560	590
Total Solids	370	400	360	360	350	375	395
Cl. as Chloride	15	21	14	14	15	18	19
Alkalinity (Ca.CO ₃)	270	270	260	245	205	250	260
Hardness (Total)	310	330	310	300	280	320	335
Hardness (Carbonate)	270	270	260	245	205	250	260
Hardness (Non-Carbonate)	40	60	50	55	75	70	75
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.4	6.4	0.0	5.2	4.2	4.2	5.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Absent	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Absent
Ammonl Nitrogen	0.000	0.12	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen absorbed	0.000	0.00	0.35	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.15
Residual Chlorine	Absent	0.20	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals	Iron less than 0.03	Absent	Iron 0.38	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

Sewerage and Drainage. No definite progress was made during the year in relation to the proposed sewerage for the whole district, but the Council's Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare village schemes for 6 parishes. Details of these schemes have not yet been received.

Housing. The number of new houses completed in 1950 was 100, while 116 others were in course of construction. The number of licences granted for the building of private houses was 32.

In selecting tenants for the houses built by the Council the policy of dealing with each case on its merits was maintained, due regard being given to the abatement of overcrowding.

The problem of providing drainage for Council houses in course of construction was one which again received a good deal of consideration. Although the question of a cesspool emptying service was considered, it was eventually decided to await the construction of small disposal works.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1950

Whooping Cough	...	21	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	12	Measles	...	22
Pneumonia	...	4	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	4
Erysipelas	...	1	Infective Hepatitis	...	12
Dysentery	...	1			

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F
Under 1 year ...								
1 to 5 years ...								
5 to 15 years ...	1		1					
15 to 25 years ...	2	1						1
25 to 35 years ...	1				1			
35 to 45 years ...	1						1	
45 to 55 years ...		1			1			
55 to 65 years ...	1				1	1		
65 upwards ...								

CIRCULARS, ETC., RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1950

Circular	Number	Title
Ministry of Health Circular	7/50	... Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950.
Ministry of Health Statutory Instruments, 1950	6	... Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950.
Ministry of Health Memorandum	Part 10	... Health Control at Airports.
Ministry of Health Circular	11/50	... Welfare of Old People
National Health Service Act, 1946	Section 28	... Proposed arrangements for prevention of illness, care and after care, First Supplementary Proposal (Vaccination against Tuberculosis).
Ministry of Food Circular	M.F.2/50	... Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
Ministry of Food Memorandum No. 2		... Whalemeat. Memorandum on a System of Inspection and Hygiene of Whalemeat Production
Ministry of Food Circular	M.F.4/50	... Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
		Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950
Statutory Instruments, 1950, Food and Drugs, England	409	... The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
Statutory Instruments, 1950, Food and Drugs, England	410	... The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
Central Council of Health Education Circular	Ex. 101	... Exhibition Set.
Do.	Ex. 201	... Exhibition Furniture.
Ministry of Food Circular	M.F.9/50	... The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Ministry of Health Circular	93005/3/241B	... Clean Food Campaign—
	93005/11/5	(1) Film "Fly about the House."
		(2) Leaflet "Insect Pests in Catering Establishments." (Reprint).
Ministry of Labour and National Service Circular	S.H.W.803106/25	... The Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) (Amendment) Order, 1950.
Ministry of Food Circular	M.C.11/50	... Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Circular	Number	Title
The Central Council for Health Education Circular Letter, 16th June, 1950		.. Food and Drink Infections. Further correspondence and a draft programme for a Food and Drink Infections Conference at Olympia on 31st August, 1950.
Ministry of Food Circular	M.F.14/50	.. The Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949. The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949. The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Ministry of Food Circular	M.F.17/50	... Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Approved Oxidising and Preservative Agents.
Ministry of Health Circular	98/50	... Civil Defence Act, 1948. The Civil Defence (Burial) Regulations, 1949. (Statutory Instrument, 1949. No. 2145).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Annual Report upon the work of the Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inspections made during the year totalled 2,740 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below:—

Housing Inspections and Revisits in respect of Repairs, Overcrowding, etc.	560
Investigations and reinspections regarding Council House applications	859
Inspections of Council Houses and Requisitioned Properties regarding cleanliness, management, lodgers, etc	246
Inspections in connection with Public Health Nuisances ...	43
Inspections of premises infested with vermin, etc. ...	41
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	53
Visits in connection with Rodent Destruction (not including Operator's Visits)	18
Inspections of Dairies	22
Inspections of Bakehouses	14
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	76
Inspections of Food shops, etc.	28
Inspections of Factories	19
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	51
Investigations regarding proposed new drainage ...	128
Inspections in connection with defective drainage ...	253
Visits in connection with Refuse and Night Soil Collection and Salvage	157
Inspections in connection with water supplies ...	84
Number of water samples collected (excluding main supplies)	32
Inspections in connection with Moveable Dwellings ...	36
Miscellaneous Visits	20

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Details of Inspections carried out under the Factories Act 1937 for purposes of provisions as to health are given in the following table:

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	31	18	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	62	12	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	6	3	—	—
Total ...	99	33	3	—

There were 2 cases in which unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were found, one of which was remedied during the year.

HOUSING

(a) **Council Houses.** The erection of Council houses continued steadily in accordance with the Ministry's quota to the District and by the end of the year practically every parish had received an allocation. The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1950:—

Council houses completed since 1945	...	...	210
Prefabricated Bungalows erected since 1945	...	...	50
Hutments converted since 1945	...	...	11
		Total	271
Council houses under construction at 31st December, 1950			116
Number of private houses erected since 1945		...	72

The practice whereby each housing application is investigated and complete reports on all cases presented to the Tenancy Committee continued and it is evident that such a policy is of great value in deciding upon the most necessitous applicants. Moreover the comprehensive report on the present and long term needs of each parish (referred to in 1949),

is kept completely up to date and has proved especially helpful to the Sites Committee and in the sharing out of the 6-monthly allocations of houses.

In addition such co-ordination enables sites and plans to be prepared in advance thus enabling contracts to be placed as early as possible.

A summary of the Housing Requirements as at 8th March, 1951 is given below:—

Total number of applications received	...	...	853
(1) Necessitous Cases.			
(a) Overcrowded or "Bedroom deficiency"	...	...	86
(b) Sharing Homes	...	...	165
(c) Bad housing	...	...	15
(2) Requisitioned properties needed by owners	...	...	12
(3) Approved farmers applications for houses for additional workers	...	...	26
Total number of houses needed to satisfy immediate Requirements			304
Deduct number of houses in course of construction	...	...	122
Additional housing requirements to satisfy immediate need			182
(a) "Long Term" Requirements:			
Confirmed Demolition Orders (not applicants)	...	...	42
Overcrowded Cases (not applicants)	...	...	22
Houses in Category 5	...	...	422
Total "Long Term" requirements			486
Combined Total of "Immediate" and "Long Term" requirements			668

In order to obtain up-to-date information the housing conditions of applicants have to be reinvestigated before each Tenancy Committee and this work places a heavy duty upon the Department. It has, however, proved of great value in bringing to light cases of overcrowding and insanitary conditions and moreover, properties vacated by selected tenants can be effectively dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936.

(b) **“Overcrowding.”** The following summary indicates the position regarding Overcrowding existing in the District at the beginning and end of the year 1950:—

SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING AND ABATEMENT

	“Borderline” (Permitted No. = No. of persons)	Houses where No. of “persons” exceeded the Permitted Number by:							Totals	
		1 person	1 person	1½ persons	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	4½ persons	Borderline	Overcrowded
Cases on Register at 31/12/49 ...	25	15	14	11	—	1	2	1	25	44
Ascertained during 1950	3	5	—	2	4	—	—	—	3	11
Cases abated during 1950 by removal to Council houses	4	5	3	3	1	—	1	—	4	13
Cases otherwise abated during 1950	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	4
Number of Cases on Register at 31/12/50	22	13	10	9	3	1	1	1	22	38

It is encouraging to note that the hard and painstaking work carried out during the year by the Tenancy Committee, under its enthusiastic Chairman, resulted in a considerable improvement as regards overcrowding apart from the abatement of many more cases of “bedroom deficiency” which are of almost equal importance.

(c) **Action under Housing Acts.** It is a matter of some concern that whilst the erection of new houses continues at a steady pace, existing dwellings are deteriorating, possibly at a much faster rate. The position is aggravated by the fact that building labour and materials are in short supply and the high cost of repairs in relation to rents of houses makes the carrying out of any but essential works a completely uneconomic proposition to owners

However action taken following inspection involved the issue of 34 Preliminary Notices to owners in respect of 37 properties. By the end of the year 25 such notices had been complied with in addition to the 10 outstanding at the end of 1949.

It was hoped that the Housing Act 1949 would enable owners to overcome the difficulty of meeting the heavy cost of reconditioning by means of "Improvement Grants." Experience has shown however, that mainly owing to the limit of expenditure imposed (£600 per dwelling) there is little possibility that the Act will prove of assistance in respect of the typical sub-standard timber, plaster and thatch cottages which form a large part of the property in the District.

During the year under review, 3 applications for "Improvement Grants" were received. In one case the application was withdrawn, the second could not be recommended for approval as the property could not comply with the Standard laid down and one case was forwarded to the Ministry for approval—this however was not forthcoming by the end of the year.

The 30 Council houses specially allocated to enable the Council to rehouse the occupants of the Nissen type huts at Stansted Airport were completed early in the year. Consequently all the families concerned were rehoused and the huts demolished. Thanks are due to the Housing and Tenancy Committees, the Ministry of Health, Air Ministry and Ministry of Civil Aviation for their combined efforts in solving this serious problem.

(d) Management of Council Houses. The Department was instructed to carry out regular inspections of Council houses with a view to taking necessary action regarding unsatisfactory tenants. Owing to limitation of staff and pressure of other duties it was only possible to visit 96 houses as a result of which 5 written notices were served and complied with. In addition the attention of the Surveyor was called to a number of defects requiring attention.

The Council House Visiting Committee continued to function satisfactorily and were instrumental in obtaining a number of improvements in houses subsequently erected.

Seventeen applications for permission to house lodgers were investigated and all except two applications were approved.

The policy of rehousing families from Requisitioned Properties was continued during the year and the table below indicates the progress made in releasing such premises from requisitioning:

Number of properties under Requisition at 31st December, 1949	38
Number of properties released from Requisition during 1950 ...	6
Number of properties under Requisition at 31st December 1950	32

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Private Supplies. Investigations and sampling revealed that 8 private water supplies serving 20 dwellings were unsatisfactory. In 5 cases notices were served requiring connection to the main supply and when the notices were complied with the 12 cottages involved were satisfactorily provided for.

In one other case the notice was still outstanding at the end of the year and in respect of a completely isolated cottage the owners arranged for drinking water to be carted to the premises.

Representations were made to the Council regarding 6 houses at Ashdon and subsequently it was agreed to carry out an extension of the main to serve the properties.

Following a survey of schools in the District it was discovered that 2 such buildings were without a proper water supply. A report was forwarded to the appropriate authorities who promised early action.

(b) Public Supplies. Progress was made towards the provision of a main water supply to outlying farms and cottages in the parishes of Chrishall, Langley and Little Sampford. Following the promise by the Ministry of Agriculture of a grant of £2,500, tenders were invited for this work and a contract issued.

In October 1950 a Report was presented to the Council pointing out the desirability of sampling all main supplies at various points for bacteriological examination at fortnightly intervals instead of quarterly as hitherto. Consequently the Department was authorised to carry out this work and regular samples were collected from the pumping stations and various points in each supply area. The results obtained are indicated below:—

Supply	Number of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	Number found satisfactory	Number found unsatisfactory
Rochfords, Birchanger	33	25	8
Stansted Water Co.	59	44	15
Southern Area (Henham Works)	20	20	Nil
Central Area (Newport Works)	10	10	Nil
Western Area (Wenden Works)	15	15	Nil
Eastern Area (Hempstead Works)	14	14	Nil
Hadstock Area (Linton Supply)	8	8	Nil
Totals	159	136	23

Following the installation of a new length of main by the Stansted Water Company laboratory reports indicated that water supplied through the new pipes was unsatisfactory. Advice was given regarding chlorination of the new main which resulted in satisfactory improvement.

The Council subsequently suggested to the Company that the installation of a chlorination plant at the headworks was advisable and at the end of the year the apparatus was in process of being installed.

The assistance and advice received from Dr J. McCoy of the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory in connection with this problem was greatly appreciated.

Each of the sources of supply were sampled during the year for chemical analyses and the laboratory reports proved to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

During the year 116 plans deposited under the Council's Building Byelaws were examined and, following visits to each site concerned, recommendations regarding proposed sanitation and drainage were passed to the appropriate Committee.

The majority of the proposals involved a septic tank and filter chamber with effluent pipes discharging into the subsoil. Whilst these

arrangements prove acceptable to the Council and appear to function satisfactorily in the case of small households, the fact cannot be overlooked that an increasing amount of effluent of low standard is thus entering the chalk strata underlying most of the land in the Area. It is to be hoped that the provision of main sewerage to all villages will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible so as to eradicate any possible danger to the water supplies.

There is no scheme for emptying septic tanks or cesspools in the District, householders being left to make their own arrangements with private contractors.

As a result of difficulties arising in connection with the drainage of large groups of Council houses the question of providing a cesspool emptying service was fully debated and in consequence it was decided to construct proper disposal works for most of the Council house sites.

In addition the Council's Consulting Engineers were asked to prepare village schemes for the parishes of Berden, Debden, Radwinter, Wimbish, Birchanger and Widdington—in two of these it is proposed to utilise disposal works abandoned by the Air Ministry.

It was also agreed to instruct the Surveyor to proceed with an extension of the sewer at Rickling and to provide modern disposal works.

The Surveyor was also responsible for constructing a new filter and tipping trough at the converted hutments at Littlebury and for carrying out improvements to the sewage disposal system at Ugley Council houses. Both of these works resulted in considerable improvement to the effluents.

Forty-four complaints regarding defective drainage involving 99 properties were investigated. 34 Preliminary Notices were consequently served on owners and 10 cases regarding Council properties were reported to the Surveyor for attention. 37 complaints were satisfactorily attended to by the end of the year.

Detailed investigations and tests were carried out in respect of polluted ditches and watercourses at Henham, Debden, Hempstead and Chrishall as a result of which these ditches were treated as open sewers. In two cases the necessary work of cleaning or piping was carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

A Survey of schools indicated that defective drainage existed at 4 buildings and these were referred to the appropriate authorities for action.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection continues to be carried out by contract with fortnightly collection in the parishes of Stansted, Newport, Great Chesterford and Littlebury and monthly collection in the remainder of the District.

The contract in respect of the Northern half of the Area expired during the year and the Council again had an opportunity to consider the question of fortnightly collection in all such parishes and also the comparative costs and merits of direct labour scavenging. However, it was decided to place a contract with the firm carrying out the work in the Southern Area so that one contract now applies to the whole district.

Tipping is carried out at 4 pits at various points in the district and although it was not found possible to obtain sufficient covering material to adhere to the Ministry's recommended method the provision of mobile labour has resulted in continued improvement in the condition of the tips.

Weekly collection of night soil in the parishes of Great Chesterford, Littlebury and part of Newport was carried out satisfactorily by private contractors: one contract was renewed for 3 years at an increased price.

It is to be regretted that present economic conditions do not allow this service to be extended to other parishes especially those which may have to wait many years for main drainage.

Salvage collection was maintained and encouraged and although no difficulties were encountered in disposing of materials, prices remained low until the last three months of the year.

Figures indicating results of salvage collection during the past three years are given below:-

		1948			1949			1950		
		T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	...	69	17	3	82	18	3	70	8	—
Bones	...	2	4	2	—	15	—	—	—	—
Rags	...	—	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bottles and Jars		3	—	2	—	10	—	—	—	—
Metals	...	6	11	—	6	7	—	3	17	—
Total amount										
realised		£512	5	9	£522	15	3	£445	19	5

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

(a) Milk and Dairies. Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 the Council retain responsibility for supervision of the distribution of milk and the registration of dairies and dairymen. 22 inspections of dairy premises were carried out and in 4 premises improvements to floors, walls and drainage were asked for and completed. In the case of one dealer bottling Tuberculin Tested milk premises were considered unsatisfactory and new premises were under construction at the end of 1950. 4 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk were submitted for examination and satisfied the prescribed tests.

(b) Meat and other Foods. There is no Ministry of Food abattoir in the District but all animals slaughtered under Ministry of Food Licences were dealt with in 7 licensed slaughterhouses. Details of post-mortem inspections were as follows:—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	1	1	118
Number inspected	—	—	1	1	118
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.7
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	8.5

Other foodstuffs surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption were as follows:—

Canned goods of all descriptions	89 tins
Beef	306 lbs.
Fish	9 stones

(c) Ice Cream. With the increased supply of this commodity a number of fresh applications for registration as vendors of ice-cream were received. These were mainly from occupiers of general or confectionery shops who had been able to obtain contracts with the larger manufacturers. In these cases only pre-wrapped ice-cream is supplied and is served direct from conservators situated in the shops. Where, however, utensils are used to cut large blocks or serve loose ice-cream, regular supervision is carried out to ensure that Hygienic measures regarding hand washing and utensil sterilization are adhered to.

Thirty-two samples of ice-cream were submitted to the laboratory for examination—the results obtained being as follows:—

Grades	Wrapped Ice Cream	Unwrapped Ice Cream	Total
I	16	3	19
II	4	3	7
III	—	—	—
IV	2	4	6

These grades are regarded as provisional and it is suggested that if ice-cream consistently fails to reach Grades I and II it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or handling which call for further investigation.

(d) Food Premises and Catering Establishments. Inspections carried out at these premises indicate that if a high standard of food hygiene is to be maintained frequent visits are necessary to check upon equipment and methods especially in view of the numerous changes of staffs which occur at these establishments. Unfortunately the present day emphasis on housing precluded such regular visits but at every inspection detailed advice was given regarding the precautions and technique necessary to avoid contamination of foodstuffs.

The new Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food were adopted by the Council and came into operation in November.

In circulating the Byelaws to food traders it is proposed to issue a memorandum indicating the manner in which the Byelaws can be put into practice and it is hoped to follow this with a comprehensive survey and campaign throughout the District.

The co-operation of the Food Executive Officer was welcomed in connection with the issue of Catering Licences so that besides proving the need for such an establishment, the applicants must also ensure that their premises and equipment satisfy the Council before such Licences are issued.

In three such cases improvements were effected before trading commenced. In two other cases the provision of hot water, new sinks and drainage was requested and the installations completed. In another case it was necessary to call for general cleansing and decoration of the food preparation room.

A distinct improvement was noted in the fittings and cleanliness of wholesale meat delivery vans and the provision of metal offal containers on such vehicles was welcomed.

No single cases or outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year.

It was necessary to take preliminary action regarding unsatisfactory or inadequate sanitary accommodation at 7 licensed premises. In 3 cases the work was completed and plans are being submitted by the owners of the remaining 4 for the complete rebuilding of conveniences.

RAT DESTRUCTION

With the coming into operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 the Council became, from the 1st April 1950, the responsible authority for control of infestation within the district.

It thus became necessary to end the contract with the Agricultural Executive Committee for this work and from 1st November, 1950, the Council utilised the part-time services of a contractor/operator as it was not considered necessary to maintain a full time employee on this work. The arrangement is working satisfactorily and the table below shows the rodent control work carried out during the period 31st March to 31st December, 1950:—

PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

Type of Property		Total	Number of properties in Local Authority's Area in which infestation was			Analysis No. infested by		
			Notified by Occupier	Otherwise discovered	Recorded Total	Rats (Major)	Rats (Minor)	Mice only
Local Authority's property	...	15	—	21	21	10	11	—
Dwelling Houses		4923	36	2	38	1	35	2
Business Premises		322	6	1	7	—	6	1
Agricultural Property	...	333	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		5593	42	24	66	11	52	3

MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Type of Property	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of Treatments carried out			
			By arrangement with occupier: Rats	By arrangement with occupier: Mice only	Under Section 5 (1): Rats	Under Section 5 (1): Mice only
Local Authority's property	21	21	21	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses	36	36	35	1	—	—
Business Premises	7	8	6	1	—	—
Agricultural Property	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	64	65	62	2	—	—

It was not necessary to serve any notices under Section 4

No block treatments were carried out

A standard charge of 2/6d. is made for treatment of private dwellings but the full cost of the work is recovered in respect of business premises.

Treatment of the Stansted sewerage system was carried out twice during the year but tests indicated that the sewers at Newport are free of infestation.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Less difficulty was experienced in respect of itinerant workers occupying movable vans than in previous years. This was possibly due to the fact that one employer of a large number of seasonal agricultural workers has reserved an isolated meadow for the van dwellers, who, however, usually move on after a few weeks.

Three applications for permission to station movable dwellings in the area were refused under the Town Planning Regulations and in consequence the vehicles were removed from the sites by the owners.

GENERAL

Informal action taken in respect of 17 Public Health Nuisances resulted in 15 of these being abated.

The practice of treating all new Council houses with DDT vapour was continued and it is interesting to note that, to date, no infestation of any of these houses has been found after occupation.

Two instances of elderly persons living alone under unsatisfactory conditions were referred to the Department—in each case persuasion and the co-operation of the Hospital Authorities resulted in removal of the persons to an institution without recourse to Statutory action under section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

CONCLUSION

The facts and figures given in this report indicate the manner in which the Council's Sanitary Officers have endeavoured to carry out the statutory obligations imposed upon a county district, and it is hoped that the results achieved have assisted in the maintenance of the health and well-being of the inhabitants.

It is encouraging to note the progress made regarding housing in the past few years, resulting in the enjoyment of better standards by many rural dwellers and it is to be hoped that action in respect of existing houses and progress in the provision of main drainage will soon close the gap between the modern Council house and the typical rural cottage.

My appreciation is expressed to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the Public Health and Tenancy Committees and to all members for their continued confidence and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk to the Council and other colleagues for their helpful co-operation. My thanks are also due to members of my staff for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. ARMES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector

